



## The Aotearoa Midwifery Project

***This is an exciting time to be involved in midwifery regulation as we see the [Aotearoa Midwifery Project](#) launch with an impressive Collaborative Reference Group to guide the process and make recommendations to the Council.***

The Council's first objective in its current strategic plan is to lead a review on the role and scope of practice of the Aotearoa midwife into the 2020s. This is a key strategic piece of collaborative work that will ensure the midwifery scope of practice, the competencies for entry to the register and the pre-registration standards for programmes of education are robust, person-centred and contemporary.

The Council is pleased to support a co-design approach that intentionally models evidence-based practice based on a Treaty Partnership Framework across the health and social system. With the leadership of co-chairs, Dr Hope Tupara and Dr Judith McAra Couper, we are confident that the Reference Group has the midwifery expertise and consumer representation to focus on improved outcomes for wāhine, their pēpi and whānau.

There will be extensive consultation with midwives, consumers and stakeholders as the project unfolds and I hope that many of you will be involved.

***Christina Mallon, Chair and Dr Sue Calvert, Chief Executive and Registrar***

*Midwifery Council of New Zealand*

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## A word from the co-chairs

***E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā karangataha maha o te motu, tēnei te mihi maioha ki a koutou i te hōtoke. He karere tēnei tuhituhi kia mōhio ai koutou i ngā āhuatanga mō te haere whakamua.***

We are honoured to have been appointed Co-chairs of the Aotearoa Midwifery Project Collaborative Reference Group to assist the Midwifery Council update and modernise the regulatory framework.

We have both had strong ties with the Midwifery Council over the years – Hope was a member of the inaugural Council in 2003, and Judith chaired the Council from 2011 to 2018. We are also passionate about improving outcomes for wāhine, pēpi, midwifery, midwifery education, equity, and good governance.

The Midwifery Council is adopting a Treaty of Waitangi-led co-design approach for the review for the Aotearoa Midwifery Project. The collaborative pathway being developed is a positive sign of great things to come and we are excited by the opportunities and challenges ahead.

### **We need to be ready**

Aotearoa's midwifery practice environment is changing, and we need to be ready. Key outcomes for this review include incorporating regulation that improves equitable health outcomes across

Māori, Pacific, disability and mental health populations. The Project will also introduce revisions to incorporate the 2019 amendments to the Health Practitioners Competency Assurance Act (2003) and changes to other laws relevant to midwives.

The Aotearoa Midwifery Collaborative Reference Group has been established to expertly guide the Council's review of the regulatory framework by enabling ways of working together to achieve a point of difference.

We have a fantastic team on the Collaborative Reference Group with an impressive range of skills and experience across the full spectrum of the sector. We are confident that together - alongside our professional and affiliated organisations, midwives, wāhine, whānau - we will create a transformative framework fit for future.

***Dr Judith McAra Couper and Dr Hope Tupara,***  
*Co-chairs, Aotearoa Midwifery Collaborative Reference Group*

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## A word from the project team

***We are delighted that the Aotearoa Midwifery Project is now fully underway after the inaugural meeting of the full reference group earlier this week.***

The project team has been working hard behind the scenes since the start of this year (despite pandemic limitations!) preparing the groundwork. This includes developing the project plan, drafting all essential documentation, advertising for reference group members, working on a communications plan and engagement initiatives, plus setting up technology platforms.

It is exciting to see the breadth of experience and expertise in the collaborative reference group members and how committed and passionate they are about shaping recommendations to the Council to ensure that the midwifery model continues to serve wāhine and their whānau into the future.

You can expect to receive regular communications from the project team over the coming months as the collaborative reference group progress this work and begin the process of co-designing the review of the regulatory framework with consumers and midwives consistent with the Council's Treaty Partnership framework.

I encourage you to get in contact with me if you have any queries about the project.

[Karina Kwai](#), *Project Manager*

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**Midwifery Council**  
Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu

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